--- “Series of 1883” - 25 Cigars - BLUE - “pointed ends” - 325 x 22 mm. ---

Judging by the ***blue strips*** printed in the regular “Series of 1883”, in December 1880 upon assuming the responsibility for the procurement and the distribution of Customs strips (as of July 1881) the Inland Revenue Department ceased the preparation of specifically designed “Customs Stamps” and beginning with the “Series of 1883” simply printed the regular tobacco stamps in blue ink for this purpose.

The catalogue lists the blue twenty-five cigar “Series of 1883” as follows:

RG-304(L) - 25 cigars, blue, perf 12, *lithographed* on horizontal mesh wove, with ‘pointed ends’ - 4 mm. red controls
RG-306(L) - 25 cigars, blue, perf 12, *lithographed* on horizontal mesh wove, with ‘pointed ends’ - 5 mm. red controls

RG-317 - 25 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, *recess printed* by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, with ‘rounded ends’, with 4 mm. red control numbers, 293 x 22 mm. design

3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886)	John McKay records 40,100 *lithographed* “25 Blue Cigars” as ‘delivered’.
4th BABN Contract (1886-1892)	John McKay records 50,955 *lithographed* and 175,500 *recess printed* by hand press copies of “25 Blue Cigars” as ‘delivered’.
5th BABN Contract (1892-1897)	John McKay records that 121,730 *lithographed* and 15 *recess printed* by hand press copies of “25 Blue Cigars” as ‘delivered’.

--- lithographed - pointed ends - 325 x 22mm ---

3rd BABN Contract	40,100 lithographed	**000001** to **040100** - **RG-304(L)**
4th BABN Contract	50,955 lithographed	**040101** to **091055** - **RG-306(L)**
5th BABN Contract	121,730 lithographed	**091056** to **212785** - **RG-306(L)**
	212,785	

--- recess printed by hand press - blunt ends - 295 x 22 mm ---

4th BABN Contract	175,500 recess printed	**212786** to **388286** - **RG-317**
5th BABN Contract	15 recess printed	**388287** to **388302** - **RG-317**
	175,515	

--- RG-306(L) - perforated 12 - 5 mm red controls - scanned at 50% scale ---

The collection ***does not contain*** a copy of **RG-304(L)** with 4 mm. red controls and thus lithographed and control numbered at Montreal under the **3rd BABN Contract** - prior to their return to Ottawa in 1887.

Did the control numbers run in *separate* sequences for the ‘pointed end’, and the ‘rounded end’ strips, or were they integrated into one unbroken whole, with the 325 mm. ‘pointed’ strips bearing the initial numbers? Judging by the control numbers on **RG-317**, they were numbered in one *continuous* control sequence.

★**RG-306(L)** - 25 cigars, blue, perf 12, lithographed at Montreal on horizontal mesh wove and control numbered at Ottawa with 5 mm. control number **095649**

095649★	RG-306(L)	25 cigars, perforated 12, on *horizontal* mesh wove - 5 mm. red controls

★**RG-306(L)n** - 25 cigars, blue, perf 12, without control numbering, on vertical mesh wove

Lithographed on *vertical mesh* wove this strip comes from the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886)

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Blue \ 25 cigars - pointed ends],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
October 13th 2013 - JBH